



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **ANOTHER CASINO WORKER PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING FROM LOCAL CASINO**

PHOENIX - Jason Carter Beal, 31, of Phoenix, pleaded guilty to Theft by an Officer or Employee of a Gaming Establishment in federal district court today. His co-defendant Fernando Lechuga, 25, also of Phoenix, pleaded guilty to the same charge on March 4, 2008.

On November 24, 2006, Slot Assistant Supervisor Jason Carter Beal and Slot Attendant Fernando Lechuga falsified two jackpot tickets totaling \$9,400 at the Vee Quiva Casino in Laveen, Ariz. The crime was discovered during a revenue audit on November 26, 2006 and a review of surveillance tapes by the Gila River Tribal Gaming Office confirmed that no jackpots had occurred on the machines in question.

Sentencing for both Beal and Lechuga is set before Judge James A. Teilborg on May 19, 2008. A conviction for Theft by an Officer or Employee of a Gaming Establishment carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison, a \$ 1,000,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Teilborg will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Tribal Gaming Office, the Gila River Police Department and FBI. The prosecution is being handled by Mark Brnovich, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix. Brnovich is assigned to prosecute casino related crime in the District of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-1221-001-JAT  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-066(Beal & Lechuga)

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